SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST UPDATED 2014

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants: [help]

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to <u>all parts of your proposal</u>, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals: [help]

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the <u>SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D)</u>. Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. background [help]

- 1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [help]
 - Skagit Wildlife Area Boat Launch Maintenance
- 2. Name of applicant: [help]
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [help]

600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501: Chris Gourley (360) 902-8392

4. Date checklist prepared: [help]

09/16/14

5. Agency requesting checklist: [help]

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [help]

Construction scheduled to begin when permits allow, up to annual cycles. Tide cycles will be used to determine the best in-water work window. Work on the Skagit River (Freshwater Slough) side will only be conducted during low tides so that impact is minimal.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [help]

This boat launch may be replaced within the next few years, but due to its location and access, it will likely require maintenance dredging on occasion after installation. No formal plans have been set in place for replacement actions.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [help]

None at this time.

- 9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [help]

 None are known at this time.
- 10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [help]

A Skagit County Shoreline Exemption Permit (JARPA), a US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide #3 Permit, and a WDFW HPA Permit will be needed.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [help]

The Skagit Wildlife Area (WLA) boat launch is utilized frequently, especially during waterfowl hunting season. The location of the boat launch, meandering of the Skagit River, seasonal increases in suspended sediment, and usage all result in the accumulation of sediment on and near the boat ramp. These sediments create a shoal just past the end of the ramp that must be dredged to continue boat access. Approximately 310 cubic yards of material are proposed for removal and haul off-site, with annual repetition. Removal will occur with either a long-reach excavator from the shoreline, or with an excavator located in the river on a barge.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and

range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [help]

Skagit WLA is located in Skagit County on Fir Island. The headquarters office is located at 21961 Wylie Road, Mount Vernon. Take I-5 to Exit 221. Go west from the freeway to Fir Island Road, following the signs for Conway/La Conner. In 1.8 miles, turn left onto Wiley Road and follow for 1 mile to a T intersection and a WDFW sign. Turn left and follow the road approximately 500 feet to the parking lot. Just beyond the parking lot, slightly to the right, is the launch site. It is located in Township 33N, Range 3E, Section 25 and the parcel number is 16106.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [help]

1. Earth

a. General description of the site [help]
 (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

This is a floodplain area and alluvial fan with estuary.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [help]

 The steepest slope is the boat ramp itself, near 15%.
- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [help]

The soils in this area are predominantly Tacoma silt loam, drained. Nearby areas are composed of other silt and sandy loams. The Tacoma silt loam is typically found on delta plains and is from parent materials of alluvium and volcanic ash with thin lenses of unspecified organic material. This very poorly drained soil is found on 0-2% slopes. The neighboring areas are used for agriculture.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [help]

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [help]

Approximately 310 cubic yards may be removed from the river to re-establish access to the river by boat. The sediment has built up around the boat launch, creating a shoal that cannot be navigated. The fine sediments to be removed are primarily carried downstream by the river from higher elevations, including snow melt from the Cascades. Removal will occur with either a long-reach excavator from the shoreline, or with an excavator located in the river on a barge.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [help]

This is an area of deposition and is not likely to become an area of increased scour. Since sediment is being removed from the water and not land, the risk of erosion is low.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [help]

No impervious surfaces will be added or removed.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [help]
Sediment that is left onsite to dry before haul off will be surrounded by silt fencing to control erosion and additional sedimentation. Staging and refueling of machines will be conducted out of the OHW with non-toxic lubricants. Additional siltation prevention BMPs include filter fabric fences and hay bales. At project conclusion, these materials will be removed by hand and taken to an approved disposal site out of the flood zone.

All exposed soils will be sloped to promote runoff. All work will be done in accordance with the terms and conditions of required permits.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [help]

Vehicle exhaust from construction is expected. No long-term change in emissions is expected from the completed project.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [help]

No

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [help]
 Standard emission control converters and mufflers would be in use by construction vehicles.
- 3. Water
- a. Surface Water: [help]
 - 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [help]

This boat launch provides access to the lower Skagit River. At this point in the river, the channels have braided, forming an alluvial fan at the estuary. This portion of the river is tidally influenced.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [help]

The sediment removal will all take place below OHWM. These sediments block boat access during low tides, and will therefore be removed.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [help]

There will not be any fill material. Sediment removal will account for approximately 310 cubic yards of material, which may be left on shore to dry before being hauled off site for disposal.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [help]

There will not be any water withdrawals or diversions. Work will be coordinated with low tides as much as possible to lessen the impact of sedimentation.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [help]

Yes. The proposal is within zone A1 on the FIRM Map Panel 5301510425C.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [help]

No. Any wastes will be contained within the upland areas and removed by the end of the project.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [help]

Ground water will not be withdrawn and no water will be discharged to groundwater.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [help]

Not Applicable.

- c. Water runoff (including stormwater):
 - 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [help]

Storm water will not be not altered or affected in any way.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [help]
 There will not be any waste materials. Any issues that may arise from equipment will be handled using spill kits.
- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Sediment that is left onsite to dry before haul off will be surrounded by silt fencing to control erosion and additional sedimentation. Staging and refueling of machines will be conducted out of the OHW with non-toxic lubricants. Additional siltation prevention BMPs include filter fabric fences and hay bales. At project conclusion, these materials will be removed by hand and taken to an approved disposal site out of the flood zone.

All exposed soils will be sloped to promote runoff. All work will be done in accordance with the terms and conditions of required permits.

- 4. Plants [help]
- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [help]

x_de	eciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
x_e\	vergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
x_sh	hrubs
x_gr	rass
pa	asture
cr	rop or grain
(Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
w	vet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
W	rater plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
ot	ther types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [help]

No vegetation will be removed or altered.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help]

The Natural Heritage Program (NHP) databases as well as the federal agency listings (USFWS) were examined for threatened or endangered plants on September 5, 2014. Threatened plants listed in Skagit County include the following: Brotherella roellii (Roll's golden log moss), Kalmia procumbens (alpine azalea), Impatiens noli-tangere (western jewel-weed), Lobelia dortmanna (water lobelia), Loiseleuria procumbens (Alpine azalea), Meconella oregano (white meconella), and Ranunculus californicus (Califronia buttercup). The two endangered plants listed are Castilleja levisecta (golden paintbrush) and Meconella oregana (white meconella). Of all the listed species, none prefer a lowland estuarine environment.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [help]

There will not be any enhancement of vegetation on the site.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Noxious weeds known to be in the area near the boat ramp include Himalayan blackberry, purple loosestrife, knotweeds, and reed canary grass.

5. Animals

a. <u>List</u> any birds and <u>other</u> animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [help]

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help]

Northern spotted owl (Strix occidentalis caurina), marbled murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus), Oregon spotted frog (Rana pretiosa), Bull Trout (Salvelinus confluentus), grizzly bear (Ursus arctos horribilis), Canada lynx (Lynx canadensis), and North American wolverine (Gulo gulo luscus) are all listed as threatened species by US Fish and Wildlife in Skagit County. The gray wolf (Canis lupis) is listed as endangered. Fish listed here by NOAA are Puget Sound Chinook (Onchorhynchus tshawytscha) and Puget Sound steelhead (O. mykiss), both threatened.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [help]

Many migratory bird species use this area as part of a migration route along the Pacific Flyway. Salmonids and bull trout also utilize this area for migration.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [help]

To preserve fish and wildlife resources, WDFW will time this project to have minimal impact upon wildlife per permit requirements.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Invasive animals in this area include nutria; avian species including European starlings; and nutria.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [help]

No energy other than fuel for equipment will be required to complete the project.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?
 List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [help]
 Not applicable.

7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. [help]

None.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
- 2) None.
- Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.
 None.
- 4) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Toxic chemicals include fuels for equipment during the project and for boats after the project is completed.

- 5) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **None.**
- 6) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
 If contamination is suspected, discovered, or occurs during improvements, testing of the
 potential contaminated media will be conducted. If contamination of soil or groundwater is
 readily apparent, or is revealed by testing, Ecology will be notified.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [help]

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [help]

Increased levels of noise during removal activities are expected from this project. Hours of increased noise levels will be 7am to 6pm. These noise impacts are expected to be very short in duration and will only be in the area around the ramp.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [help]

No special noise reduction efforts are planned.

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [help]

The site is within the Skagit Wildlife Area. The WLA is used for walk-in waterfowl and pheasant hunting, fishing, bird dog training, bird watching, walking, and jogging. There is a dike system of trails that allow access to the estuary for many of these activities. The boat ramp serves as a public access launch.

Adjacent properties that are not part of the WLA are used for agriculture.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [help]

The site was purchased using federal Pittman-Robertson funds for pheasant hunting and growing waterfowl forage grains in 1948. Management has since shifted restored estuary habitat for Chinook salmon. The immediate area of the project has not been used for this purpose.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No. No forest or farmlands will affect or be affected by the project.

c. Describe any structures on the site. [help]

Within close proximity of the work to be accomplished, there is a covered area/building in the parking lot off Game Farm Road, a mobile trailer that serves as the headquarters for the Wildlife Area, a covered shed, and a housing building for staff. There is a parking lot located next to the boat ramp area.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [help]

No structures will be demolished.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [help]

Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [help]

Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [help]

Natural Shoreline

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [help]

The area surrounding the work area has regular concentrations of waterfowl, according to the WDFW PHS system. There are also nearby wetlands and estuarine zones listed on PHS. The county considers the area a public space of regional importance.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [help]
 None.
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [help]

 None.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [help]
 None.
- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [help]

None. This is an established boat ramp. This is a maintenance project only.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

None. This is an established boat ramp. This is a maintenance project only.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [help]

None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [help]

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: <a>[help] <a>None.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [help]

There are no proposed structures.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [help]

 No views will be altered or obstructed.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [help]
 There will not be aesthetic impacts.

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [help]

There will be no light or glare issues.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [help] No.
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [help]
 None.
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [help]

 Not applicable.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [help]

 The area is used for walking, jogging, hunting, bird dog training, dog walking, and bird watching. The project site is a boat ramp, used for public access and launching.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [help]

 The project will require closing the boat ramp for the duration of the maintenance actions.

 After this, recreational uses will not be negatively affected.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [help]

The work will be completed in a timely manner so as not to impact the launching of public boats for any longer than necessary.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [help]

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation show there are no known sites near the project site (WISAARD access 09/05/14)

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [help]

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation show there are no known sites near the project site (WISAARD access 09/05/14). The Skagit River Systems Cooperative (SRSC), a tribal consortium, will be notified of work through federal permitting and comments will be welcomed. This area has been previously disturbed and it is unlikely that artifacts will be found.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of

archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [help]

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation show there are no known sites near the project site (WISAARD access 09/05/14). This site is highly altered and the land around it has been altered as well. SRSC will be informed of work through federal permitting and comments will be welcomed. The previous disturbances of this area have not encountered artifacts and it is unlikely that they will be encountered in this project.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Keep project within the proposed existing footprint.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [help]
 Wylie Road and Game Farm Road both provide access and shall remain open if possible.
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [help]

 The site is not served by public transit. The nearest stop is approximately 6.1 miles away at the South Mount Vernon Park and Ride on Old Hwy 99 and E Hickox Road in Mount Vernon, WA.
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [help]

 No parking alterations will occur.
- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [help]
 No.
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [help]
 No.
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [help]

Trips per day will not likely increase over current use traffic. Peak season is waterfowl hunting season in the fall.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.
 No.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [help]

None.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [help]
 No.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [help]

 Maintaining the boat ramp can reduce public service impacts due to siltation that may cause injury or harm. This work will maintain the boat launch.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [help] No utilities exist at the proposed site. electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [help]

No utilities are proposed for the project.

C. Signature [HELP]

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.	I understand that the
lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.	
/ TXY. ()	

Signature:	Syour	le	
Name of signee _	<u>Christina L. Go</u>	urley	
Position and Age	ncy/Organization:	Biologist, Washington Department of Fish a	and Wildlife
Date Submitted:	09/17/14		